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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/753,496	01/09/2004	Jin Woong Kim	2832-0172P	6823

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH  
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EXAMINER
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STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1792

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/27/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

**Office Action Summary**

<b>Application No.</b> 10/753,496	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIM ET AL.	
<b>Examiner</b> FRANKIE L. STINSON	<b>Art Unit</b> 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2007.
- 2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                      2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-18 and 21-34 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \*    c)  None of:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 14, 17, 18, 22, 25-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hockh et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 5,180,438) in view of either Fraraccio (U. S. Pat. No. 2,574,098) or Koblenzer (U. S. Pat. No. 4,471,792).

Re claim 1, Hockh is cited disclosing a steam drum washing machine comprising:

a tub (11) adapted so that water-water (col. 3, line 34-36) is supplied into the tub;

a drum (16) rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that articles are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum;

a steam generator (80) to heat water to obtain steam and to supply the steam into the tub and the drum; and

a water-supply unit (not shown, col. 3, lines 35-36) to supply the water into the tub and to the steam

generator that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the casing and the washing of laundry/clothes. The patents to Fraraccio and Koblenzer are each cited disclosing the casing as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Hockh, to include a casing as taught by either Fraraccio or Koblenzer, for the purpose of providing a more aesthetic arrangement and for the purpose of covering the components of the apparatus to protect workers. As for

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the cleaning of clothes, the same is of little patentable weight in that the body of the claim fails to recite any limitations that would limit the device for cleaning clothes only. Nonetheless, Koblenzer is cited the arrangement of cleaning articles like that in Hockh, as well as clothes (col. 1, lines 34-49, "garments", line 45). Re claims 2, 18, 21 and 22, Hockh is cited disclosing the a steam jet drum washing machine comprising:

a tub disposed in a casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub; a drum rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum;

a water-supply unit disposed at one side of the tub for supplying the water into the tub and the drum; and

a steam generator connected to the water-supply unit for heating the water to obtain steam, and supplying the steam into the tub and the drum, wherein the water-supply unit includes:

a water-supply tube (not shown) connected at one end thereof to the steam generator for supplying the water into the steam generator; and

a steam tube (84) having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end disposed in the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the tub and the drum that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the washing of clothes and the casing. Therefore Fraraccio and Koblenzer are cited as applied above. Re claim 3, Hockh discloses the valve (26, 62). Re claim 3, Hockh discloses the nozzle (48). Re claims 17, 25-28, to locate the generator as claimed is deemed to be a mere

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rearrangement of parts absent any new or unobvious results. (see MPEP 2144.04 REVERSAL, DUPLICATION OR RE-ARRANGEMENT OF PARTS). Re claim 29, Hockh discloses the generator as claimed. Re claim 34, Hockh disclose the steam tubes as claimed.

3. Claims 5, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Mollinari (U. S. Pat. No. 3,615,822).

Claims 5 and 23 define over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the gasket. Mollinari is cited disclosing the gasket as claimed (col.4, lines 30-34). It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Hockh, to include a gasket as taught by Mollinari, for the purpose of preventing the leakage of the steam, as is common in the art. Re claims 24, Hockh discloses the nozzle.

4. Claims 6-10, 13-16, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of either Violi (U. S. Pat. No. 5,355,840) or Treiber et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 4,287,407).

Claim 6 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the steam generator having container, heater and inlet/outlet valves as claimed. The same is deemed to be generally typical in steam generators, (note the corresponding components in Hockh) nonetheless, Violi or Treiber (see abstract in each) discloses the components as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to

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modify the generator of Hockh, to be as taught by either Violi or Treiber, since this is considered to be a mere substitution of equivalents. All of the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Re claims 7-10, 13-16, 30 and 33 Violi and Treiber also disclose the generator being controlled as a function of the temperature, pressure and water level, typical in the art.

5. Claims 11 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Groom (U. S. Pat. No. 3,410,986)

Claims 11 and 32 define over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the thermal insulation. Nonetheless, Groom discloses the thermal insulating as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ thermal insulating as taught by Groom for the purpose of preventing injury to the user.

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Pickering (U. S. Pat. No. 3,035,381)

Claim 12 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the upper part and the lower part being connected together Pickering discloses the upper (26) and the lower part (21) being connected together as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to

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one having ordinary skill in the art to employ generator in Hockh, as taught by Pickering since this is consider to be a mere substation of equivalents .

7. Claims 19 and 20 stands allowed.

8. Applicant's arguments filed December 10, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the Hockh discloses an apparatus for washing and drying workpieces that have been mechanically shaped and fails to disclose a method of washing laundry using a steam drum as in the instant application. However, in giving the term "washing machine" its broadest reasonable interpretation, as allowed, Hockh can be said to disclose a "washing machine". It should also be noted that the claims also fails to provide any limitations that would limit the invention for washing laundry only. As for the method of washing laundry, it is noted that a method of washing laundry has in fact, not been claimed.. The argument is more limiting that the claims. It regard to the argument that Hockh fails to disclose the instantly claimed arrangement of a water supply unit that supplies water to the steam generator and to the tub, the following is provided. It is the examiner's position that in Hockh, there is a single supply of wash water to the system. As noted by the applicant in the discussion of Hockh, with the specific mention to Hockh, col. 5, lines 35-40, Hock discloses that condensed water is fed periodically to the generator by means of a pump (8). However, with there being only a single water supply, the condensed water fed by the pump is in fact the same water fed to the system, (i.e., the tub, from the water supply unit, not shown). Applicant broadly claims " a water-supply unit to supply the water into the tub

and to the steam generator". Hockh's water supply unit inherently meets this claim language.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for



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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/FRANKIE L. STINSON/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792